

**Delaware Women's Commission
Office of Women's Advancement & Advocacy
State of Delaware, Department of Human Resources**

Carvel State Office Building
820 N. French Street, 10th Floor
Wilmington, DE 19801

(Via Videoconferencing)
Haslet Building
122 Martin Luther King Blvd, South
Dover, DE 19901
Monday, January 28, 2018
10:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

Commission Attendees:

Marian Palley, Chairperson
Alisha Bryson
Sobia Choudhri-Dover
Sherese Brewington-Carr
Laura Burnett-Dover

Staff Attendees:

Melanie Ross Levin
Shaleah Sutton
Carling Ryan

DRAFT MINUTES

Welcome and Introductory Comments

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Marian Palley at 10:30 a.m. The chairperson welcomed everyone and asked the members to look at the minutes from the last meeting. Because a quorum wasn't present, the committee was unable to vote.

Ms. Palley introduced a new Commission member, Laura Burnett. Ms. Palley asked Laura to tell the commission members something about herself. Laura is a

retired teacher who volunteered for the Commission for about a year, and she looks forward to having an official voice on the Commission.

An update on the role of the Delaware Women's Coalition

Ms. Palley updated Commission members on the meeting with the Women's Coalition, and informed them that many organizations that have joined the coalition. The Coalition will share information on events and have different people attending events from other organizations.

The Women's Coalition are looking at two bills HB52/SB21 "The Pain Capable Unborn Child Act" Aka the 20-week ban would ban abortion at 20 weeks and remove the agreed upon definition of viability.

HB53/SB19 "The Woman's Ultrasound Right to Know Act" would force doctors to offer a patient an ultrasound including dimensions of the fetus, and limbs and internal organs of the fetus, and a fetal heart tone auscultation. This bill would criminalize providers for failing to offer those services.

Updates on She's on her Way

Sherese Brewington-Carr gave updates on the She's On Her Way event. The application process for the event ended on January 15, 2019. The committee met on January 18, 2019 to select the nominees for the award. Committee member Sobia Choudrhi and volunteer Laura Burnett went with Stella Harrison and Melanie Ross Levin to Buena Vista to take a tour.

Four women were selected for the She's On Her Way award. Precious Benson (30), Christine Marsett (27), Caroline Kane (27), and Varudhini Reddy (29). The nominees were happy to be selected and are looking forward to helping to promote the event and sell tickets. The ticket cost for the event is \$25.00 and First Lady Tracy Quillen Carney will be hosting the event. Sherese asked Commission members to help promote event, and stated that tickets will be on sale starting January 28, 2019

Updates from the Office of Women's Advancement & Advocacy

Melanie Ross Levin, Director of the Office of Women's Advancement & Advocacy, talked about the biennial report that was submitted to the Governor's office. The Office of Women's Advancement & Advocacy moved across the hall from where it previously was, and now is next door to the Lieutenant Governor's Office. Ms. Ross Levin would like to hold an open house so the Hall of Fame

Committee, Women's Workforce Council, and Commission for Women members can visit the new office.

The Equal Rights Amendment passed, and the families of senators who sponsored the bill in the past were in Legislative Hall to see the passing of the bill. Ms. Ross Levin talked about the Hall of Fame, and stated that this year it will be held on October 17, 2019. She asked Commission members to support the Hall of Fame event. The Office of Women's Advancement & Advocacy will be working on different events this year. The Governor's office is signing a proclamation recognizing National Girls and Women in Sport Day with local female athletes from all over Delaware.

On March 12, 2019, there will be a speed meeting event with legislators and nonprofit agencies. The Office is finalizing contracts for Salary Negotiations workshops. The Office would like to have one workshop in each county and the City of Wilmington.

Other Updates

On February 18, 2019, the National Coalition of 100 Black Women will host a forum for black girls. Ms. Brewington-Carr asked if the committee could support the event, and would like to work with organizations who work with girls. Ms. Palley stated that she will share information with the Women's Coalition.

Meeting Adjourned

Next Meeting: March 25, 2019